crores. Subsequently, a Revised Outlay of Rs. 750.00 crores was approved. The Net Normal Central Assistance actually released was Rs 871.36 crores.

Resource shortfall in Eighth Five Year Plan

842. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will tlie Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a resource shortfall in the Eighth Five Year Plan now estimated to be at a massive Rs. 60,000 crore at 1991-92 price as reported in the Economic Times dated the 30th October, 1994.

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard ;

(c) how Government propose to meet this resource shortfall in the remaining two years so that the plan is not pruned substantially;

(d) whether the Planning Commission have set up a group of experts to look into the resource availability and suggest ways and means to salvage the Plan :

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard and whether the group of experts has submitted its report; and

(f) if so, what are its main re commendations and what action Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) to (f) The Planning Commission has set up a Working Group on Mid-Term Appraisal of Financial Resources for the Eighth Five Year Plan which would, besides others, make an assessment of the shortfall in the Plan expenditure investment. The working Group have had three meeting so far and is currently engaged in assessing the likely shortfall in the resources during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Unutilised Foreign Aid

843. SHRI SUSH1LKUMAR : SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that un-utilised foreign aid stands at Rs. 72.945 crores;

(b) if so. the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have launched a four pronged strategy to improve ai I utilisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to use the foregin aid for the specific purpose for which it was given :

(f) if so, the details thereof: and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor '?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per provisional figures, the unutilised aid as on 31-8-1994 stands at Rs. 72.945 crores.

(b) Aid is tied to projects and • s e xpected to be. utilised over the

entire project life. However, important reasons for slow utilisation include inadequate provisioning and counterpart funding, procurement and contracting delays, startup and other procedural delays. Out of the total unutilised aid, around one-third is accounted for by the erstwhile USSR.

(c) and (d) Steps taken by the Government to improve aid utilisation include release of additional Central Assistance as 100% additionally, release of advance Additional Central, Assistance to States, ensuring adequate provisioning for externally aided projects, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedure, disintermediating on flow of external aid to Central Public Sector Enterprises and portfolio rationalisation.

(e) to (g) Since foreign aid is generally project-tied it is given for a specific purpose or project.

12.00 NooN

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reports and Accounts (1993-94) ot various Gem and Jewellery concerns and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) Madam, On behalf of SHRI PRANAB MU-KHERJEEI lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :—

(I) (a) Twenty Eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Bombay, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of-the above Council.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT/6496/84)

(II) (a) Tenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Council for Leather Exports, Madras, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.

(Placed in Librarv. *See* No. LT/6497184)

(III) (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 1993-94, together with the Auditors' Report on the accounts,

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

(Placed in Library. *See* No LT/6498/84)

Notification of the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIR! AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : Madam, 1 lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act. 1976, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry o'f Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Notification G.S.R. No. 591(E), dated the 20th July, 1994 publishing the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 1994.

(Placed in Library. *See* No. LT/6573/94)

I. Reports and Accounts (1993-94) of various Coal Companies and related papers,